

# *The Flying Badger*

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee Wisconsin

October 2004 Volume 56, No. 10





photo by Master Sgt. Dutch DeGroot

The Flying Badger concludes its series on diversity this month with a final look at the diverse group of people who comprise the 440th Airlift Wing. See page 11.

## ***The Flying Badger***

October 2004 Volume 56 Number 10

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# Three keys to IGX success

## Communication Attitude & Safety

by Col. Michael Pierce

On the first of November, I'll deploy for my fourth inspector general exercise and experience has taught me that attitude, communication and safety determines the level of success.

Attitude determines our spirit to fight and survive in a hostile environment. Without a positive attitude, the battle is lost. Positive attitude reflects in our performance. Outstanding performance is the result of a successful mix of positive attitude and job knowledge.

Communication is challenging during an IGX because of time compression, number of different units and mission uniqueness. The first step in successful communication is to recognize everyone's differences. For example, maintenance refers to an aircraft as a "tail number," operations refer to it as a "sortie," and logistics refer to it as a "chalk." Wow! Now, 40 plus units must find a common reference in less than two days.

Safety. Safety. Safety. The war is lost, the IGX is unsatisfactory and the unit's impact is unmeasurable if we compromise safety. Everyone's responsibility is to ensure safety.



There are no reasons to compromise safety during an exercise. We must ensure our exercise promotes safe practices and environment.

Col. Smith and I appreciate everyone's extra effort to support our IGX. We are confident the 440th will demonstrate the highest standards within the Air Force Reserve Command.

## Mask fit testing required before IGX

The wing IGX is just around the corner and wing officials expect everyone to have all their training requirements done by the time the exercise kicks off on or about Oct. 25. One of the squares that will need filling is quantitative gas mask fit testing (QNFT).

QNFT determines how well a mask fits the wearer and if that person has a properly sized mask. The test measures the particulate concentration in and outside the mask. Ideally the test enhances training, increases the effectiveness of the equipment and instills confidence at the same time.

The most common reasons for test failures are improper use of corrective lenses (straps may interfere with the seal) or an odd sized shape or head size. The masks were not expected to fit 100 percent of the Air Force population. Medical conditions, like swelling due to dental surgery and some skin conditions (shaving waivers) may make it necessary to reschedule a test.

QNFT is required every 20-40 months; when a person has problems with negative pressure checks; after weight gains or losses that affect the fit of the mask and after extensive dental work, facial surgery or scarring.

Testing is conducted in building 140. Call the Bioenvironmental Engineering staff at 482-5296, 5247 or 5241 for an appointment. Before the test make sure your gas mask is clean and serviceable.

Men must be clean-shaven. Women must remove any hair pins or clips and should use a minimal amount of makeup. Hair will be worn down. Reservists must bring their inserts with them.

Contacts are not allowed. If new inserts are needed bring a current copy of your prescription to the 440th MDS Optometry Office and new ones will be ordered. It normally takes one UTA to get new inserts.



# 440th reservist plays pivotal role at medical staging facility in Iraq

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

"Love for the Air Force" and "love for the troops" motivated Lt. Col. Judy Pasko to volunteer for a tour of duty at Balad Air Base in Iraq. The 440<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron reservist deployed to Iraq, serving as a psychological nurse while working at the Balad Contingency Air Staging Facility.

Pasko's primary responsibilities included supporting the CASF staff, providing counseling and psychological care as needed for patients, and supervising the psychological technicians. In addition, she also served in other roles as needed, such as the nurse in charge of ambulatory patients or the nurse in charge of litter patients.

The facility medical crews work at a high-ops tempo. The nurse on duty maintains constant communication with the Mission Control Center, and goes out to the flight-line to bring in patients dropped off by C-130s and helicopters, and provides a report to the flight nurse. Intensive care patients remained at the Army Combat Support Hospital, and Pasko and her co-workers brought these patients and their medical support teams to the medical evacuation planes.

"Missions usually go out four times a week," said Pasko. "Sometimes we have to schedule extra missions for urgent and priority patients."

Pasko said the facility often starts out with zero patients at the beginning of the day, but the medics could end up treating as many as 80 patients in the next 24 hours. The medical staff see

a variety of medical problems come through.

"Some are injuries caused by work or recreation, such as sprains and fractures," she said. "But most are caused by combat. We see shrapnel injuries, gunshot wounds, amputations, eye injuries and head injuries."

Along with the injuries and illnesses, many patients suffer from stress and depression that cannot be resolved in the field. Pasko feels immense satisfaction in helping all of the patients – whether life-threatening injuries, stress related conditions or minor sprains, she enjoys interacting with the service members that come through the facility.

"I love the Air Force," she explains. "This is a wonderful way to put all my Air Force training to good use."

Pasko also believes in the mission. "Iraq is a country that is rich in resources, yet, the majority of the people live in poverty," she said. "The Iraqis are good, hard-working people, and deserve to be free of tyranny. I truly believe we are helping them become an independent, democratic country."

The nurse considers her family a group of patriots. Both of her sons deployed in the last two years, one supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, and the other supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a civilian, Pasko is a nursing program coordinator at the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. But for now, all of her concentration lies with her work at Balad Air Base.



photo submitted

Maj. Patricia Pamon (left), 932nd Medical Squadron and Lt. Col. Judy Pasko, 440th Medical Squadron, sit down for a moment at the Balad Air Base Contingency Air Staging Facility.

## AF Uniform Board releases results

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force officials recently released the results of the 96th Air Force Uniform Board held June 18 and 19. The chief of staff approved a number of changes, affecting everything from cell phones to scarves. Among the changes are:

- Redesign the female lightweight blue jacket.
- Authorize the lightweight blue jacket to be worn indoors.
- Authorize, as an option, to have the Air Force symbol embroidered on the lightweight blue jacket.
- Authorize the black scarf only with all Air Force uniforms, eliminating white, gray and olive drab options.
- Authorize conservative ornamentation on nonprescription sunglasses and eyeglasses.
- Authorize one small, black, nondescript personal digital assistant, pager or cellular phone at a time to be worn on the uniform belt.
- Allow females to wear small, black spherical earrings when in uniform.
- Allow black web belts or black riggers belts with nondescript buckles as an optional item with the battle dress uniform.
- Remove the requirement to wear a tie or tab with short-sleeved shirt or blouse while traveling on a commercial airline.
- Authorize wear of a backpack over both shoulders.
- Authorize only a solid-color black backpack with blue uniform combinations and solid black, olive drab or woodland camouflage backpack with battle dress uniforms.
- Redesign the Security Forces beret.
- Allow the wear of plain black conservative hairpins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes with all female hair colors.
- Allow males to cleanly shave their heads or have military high-and-tight haircuts; females are not authorized to shave their heads or wear high-and-tight haircuts.

More information about these and other uniform board decisions will be included in the next update of Air Force Instruction 36-2903, being released this summer. For more information about uniform requirements, call the military personnel flight at 482-5327.

# 440th secretary key to continuity with each wing change of command

by Ann F. Skarban

The wing's change of command is only one month away, and one can't help but think about the major transition a change of command brings to a Reserve wing.

There is at least one person who knows she has been employed by the wing for more than 37 years, and provides a wealth of knowledge and support during changes of commands and other important times for the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Mary A. Savarino, the secretary to the wing commander, has been an employee of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing since October of 1967 and has been the wing commander's secretary since 1989. She has dedicated nearly three fourths of her life to the wing. "It seems like I've been here forever," said Savarino.

In addition to providing professional administrative support to the wing's command section, she has been a source of continuity as secretary, for the last four commanders of the 440<sup>th</sup>. Savarino is a highly skilled, and efficient secretary with the ability to type fast and take the wing commander's staff meeting notes quickly and accurately with short hand, but she feels that the most important aspect of her job is being caring and kind. "There is nothing different about me, I try to be personable and get along with people, that is a bigger factor than skills," said Savarino.

Colonel Michael Smith, 440<sup>th</sup> wing commander said, "I know that the first thing a visitor to the command section is going to see is a smile. If you don't think that's important, think about the places you visit to get assistance. How much does a friendly attitude mean to you when you're looking for help in a place that may be a little intimidating? The character of the command section is as much a factor of the personality of the executive assistant as of the commander. That person is the most "visible" personality in the office, whether they are the first person visitors see or that they speak to when calling. In Mary's case, that first impression is, without exception, positive. Many people, from U.S. Congressmen to personal friends, have commented to me on her pleasant qualities. What she projects is an image that people immediately associate with the wing and its character. And that is precisely what I believe this wing is, as well as how we would want others to see us."

He added, "Being one of 10 children in her family, I suspect she learned early the importance of assertiveness but also how to get along. She blends those talents well and knows when to apply each."

"I get a new job every time the wing changes command," said Savarino. This will be her fifth change of command as the wing commander's secretary. "I enjoy the enthusiasm and new changes, new directions and new challenges with each new commander," said Savarino.

"Because I have been here, they look for my opinion and experience. I keep them updated and informed. I know what is going on from all angles," she said.

Savarino began her 440<sup>th</sup> career in 1967 as the secretary to the Military Personnel director. She had taken breaks in service in 1970, 1974 and 1977 to care for her three children and returned to the 440<sup>th</sup> in a continuous, full-time capacity in 1985. Over a 37-year time-frame Savarino has 25 years of government service, of which 24 were at the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Today, her two daughters and son are grown and are raising their own families. Savarino and her husband of 36 years, Ron, also have six grand children.

During her 440<sup>th</sup> career, Savarino has been a supply clerk in administration and clerical assistant in administration. (Administration was the predecessor of Information Management, now part of SC). And finally, secretary to the wing commander.

Savarino has been here through many changes in the wing including airframes and technology. When she first started the wing was flying the C-119 Flying Box Car and annual training was referred to as "summer camp." It was held locally with reservists training at the Milwaukee Air Reserve Station.

Individual reservists had military service numbers as well, which were later replaced by use of reservists' Social Security numbers in July of 1969. In 1970 the wing converted to C-130A aircraft. (Savarino noted the 440<sup>th</sup> was considered for deactivation in 1970, but the unit's mission changed to C-130 airlift allowing it to stay as an active Reserve unit.) In 1989 the 440<sup>th</sup> upgraded from the C-130A model to the C-130H. In 1995 the wing was again considered for deactivation, but remained open.

When Savarino began her career at the 440<sup>th</sup>, the unit was called the 440<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, and had just changed from Troop Carrier Wing. Also at that time the 440<sup>th</sup> was the headquarters unit with three detached units at O'Hare Interna-



Mary Savarino accepts a flag from Wing Commander Col. Michael L. Smith.

*photo submitted*

tional Airport, Ill., Niagara Falls, N.Y. and Minneapolis. When Savarino first started with the wing electric typewriters with a correction ball and carbon paper were standard. Now PCs, electronic forms and digital technology are the tools in use. Another big change throughout her career is the increased role and mission of the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and its Reservists. Our unit's current deployments as well as AEF rotations illustrate the change in mission.

In addition to providing a wealth of knowledge and years of service to the wing, she is responsible for establishing and running the wing's blood drives. The first drive was held in December of 1988 and since then the wing has donated more than 1,150 pints of blood.

For Mary, who was born and raised in the neighboring community of Cudahy, the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing was close to her home and family, and through the years has become a second family. Savarino takes great pride in being a part of the 440<sup>th</sup> team. "It's never me, I am a part of the organization. Just being a part of the picture is enough. You take pride in being associated with the 440<sup>th</sup>. We are unique in Milwaukee. Although we are a small unit, people know the 440<sup>th</sup>. To see the planes flyover gives me such great pride to be a part of a great wing."

Reflecting on her career at the 440<sup>th</sup> Savarino commented, "It is amazing where life can lead you." She said her love for her job, the people of the 440<sup>th</sup> and the pride in knowing she is involved in the mission of the 440<sup>th</sup>, have kept her here through the years and will keep her going for several more.



# A crowning achievement 35 years in the making

*2004 Sijan Award winner credits others for recognition*

**Story and photo by  
Senior Airman Deanne Perez**

Chief Master Sgt. Edward Thomas, chief of Military Personnel Programs, has been named the recipient of the 2004 Captain Lance P. Sijan Award.

"The nomination was special," said Thomas. "It really is an honor to be nominated given the history of Captain Sijan."

Thomas has been busy this last year not only helping members deploy but also assisting family members. When he considers the amount of deployments and sacrifices by some members, he is surprised he was named recipient.

## A team effort

"There are a lot of deserving people out there," he said. "This is not something I earned by myself."

Thomas credited many others for doing their jobs well, even throughout stressful times.

Thomas' contributions extend beyond the wing. He's represented the 440<sup>th</sup> through Honor Guard events; is active in his church; a member of various civic organizations and a founder of a local support group for those involved in adoption.

Thomas who plans to retire next January, says this award is a culmination of everything that began when he first set foot on General Mitchell Air Reserve Station in 1969.

"I feel very fortunate," he said. "To receive an award named after Captain Sijan is very meaningful to me."

The Captain Lance P. Sijan Award was designed to recognize and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of a member of the 440<sup>th</sup>



2004 Captain Lance P. Sijan Award recipient Chief Master Sgt. Edward Thomas, has been a wing member since 1969. Planning on retiring in January, he said the award is a crowing achievement in his military career.

as well as their contributions to their contributions to their community, unit and the Air Force Reserve.

A Milwaukee native, Capt. Sijan was the first Air Force Academy graduate to win the Medal of Honor. Sijan was an F-4 pilot whose plane was shot down in North Vietnam in 1967 and he ultimately died in captivity.

## Recent Sijan Award winners

2003 MSgt. Mark Kontowicz  
2002 TSgt. Eric Nelson  
2001 TSgt. Mark Aragon  
2000 Capt. Kyle Cioffero  
1999 Capt. Anthony Polashek

# 440th Airmen remember working on first C-130s

The C-130 has a colorful history – a history that some current 440<sup>th</sup> members helped to paint

One of the first C-130s in operation – Aircraft 0023 – was reconstructed and repaired by members of the wing. Master Sgt. Greg Stevenson, 440<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, recalls working on the aircraft and the amount of pride put into its repairs by the Airmen involved, many of who are still assigned to the wing.

Some of these individuals include Chief Master Sgt. Al Hurlbutt, Master Sgts. Sun-Wing

Leung and Andrea McClam, and retired Lt. Col. Don Webb from the 95<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Jim Orze, 440<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and retired Lt. Col. Fred Robinson, 440<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group.

Often called the "Home of the Miracle Workers," their shop was commended on the amount and high quality of work they put into the aircraft.

Because the plane had flown in Vietnam, many of the Airmen looked forward to restoring the aircraft. Stevenson recalls, "A lot of pride went into taking care of it."

Currently, Aircraft 0023 can be found.....check with Tech. Sgt. Brady Kiel.....still telling history, still a source of pride.









S 50TH





*photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe*

Recruiter Tech. Sgt. Winston Cagadas watches Taiesha Jones sign her enlistment oath.

## Internet leads drive 440th recruits

by Staff Sgt. Steve Staedler

Just how valuable is the Internet in the eyes of 440th Airlift Wing recruiters? Considering 40 percent of the 178 new Flying Badgers this past year made their initial queries to recruiters through the Air Force Reserve's Web site, it's a valued commodity.

"Younger people these days are much more knowledgeable thanks to the Internet," said Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Lee. "People don't want to just call up and talk to a recruiter. So they go online and fill out their information, and that's how we get it."

The 40 percent figure more than doubles the next leading advertising tool to attract new recruits to the 440th, which is family or teacher referrals with 15 percent.

The 178 new recruits Lee and his staff of four recruiters brought into the 440th this past year is an increase of 11 people from fiscal year 2003. What makes this year's final tally more impressive is that they only had 11 months to accomplish their goal.

Unlike previous years when recruiters sought

new recruits from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, their timeline this past year was trimmed to Aug. 31. Lee said the move was designed to give recruiters a month off to take leave and tend to personal business.

"It was a very stressful year," Lee said, "probably one of the most stressful years I've ever had in recruiting."

The total number of new recruits for AFRC, both prior military and non-prior military was 9,637 in fiscal year 2004.

The large number of Internet leads may be changing the way recruiters go about selling the Air Force Reserve, as people are shopping around to find which branch is the best fit for them.

"People nowadays are coming to our offices already with some type of knowledge of what they want to do," said Technical Sgt. Winston Cagadas, a 440th recruiter in the Chicago area. "When we finally see them, more times than not they have already shopped around on their own. They just want to know more about the Reserve, ask questions and find out what's exactly best for them."

## Reserve recruiters exceed goal for 4th straight year

For the fourth year in a row, Air Force Reserve Command recruiters exceeded the command goal. They brought in 9,636 new recruits by the end of August. Their goal was 9,600 by Sept. 30.

Col. Francis Mungavin, AFRC Recruiting Service commander, congratulated members of the service for their accomplishment in an Aug. 31 e-mail.

"I cannot tell you all how proud I am of you all," he wrote. "Our objective is to ensure the command is 100 percent effectively manned. It's a continuous process. Every year we go from hero to zero."

In addition to making goal early, the command had its highest percentage of successful recruiters. Of the 284 recruiters, more than 80 percent made goal.

Last year's goal was 9,500 new recruits, and 79 percent of the recruiters made goal. The percentage of recruiters making goal has risen significantly in the new millennium - 50 percent in 2001 and 60 percent in 2002.

In a letter Sept. 1, Lt. Gen. John Bradley, AFRC commander, congratulated the Recruiting Service people for exceeding their annual recruiting goal for the fourth consecutive year. He called their achievement a "grand slam."

"Most impressive was your push to access more than 2,300 recruits during July and August alone, demonstrating your urgency to man AFRC," wrote the general. "I know I can count on your continued aggressive recruiting efforts. ... You continue to lead the Department of Defense in accessions per production recruiter."

Mungavin attributed the recruiters' success to several factors and said no one individual made it happen.

"It was a team effort; great recruiters, leadership, our training program, the support staff and infrastructure behind the recruiters," the colonel said.

Air Force Reserve Command has about 75,800 reservists who train and deploy regularly. The command hires new recruits with no prior military experience, as well as veterans. (AFRC News Service)

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To contact the 440th Airlift Wing recruiting office, call (414) 482-5135

[www.afreserve.com](http://www.afreserve.com)



# Looking for **BIG LOSERS** in 2005



Operation Lighten the Load  
looks for wing members to  
lose 5,000 pounds next year

A new fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and an inspector general exercise (the first week in November) are rapidly approaching. Once they are done what will we do for excitement? Well, glad you asked. The answer is Operation Lighten the Load. The members of the 440th are being challenged to lose a collective 5,000 pounds by the end of FY 2005.

Lighten the Load will begin with the Oct. 2-3 UTA. The ground rules will be announced during the 440th Airlift Wing Health Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Heritage Hall (wing auditorium, building 102). Participating Airmen will be able to track their weight loss and win prizes that will be given away monthly. Colonel Michael Pierce, vice commander of the 440th, said that should the wing meet its goal of 5,000 lost pounds, the wing will plan a special celebratory event.

Anyone who wants to get a head start on a new healthy life style can follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's guidelines for a healthy lifestyle that are as easy as ABC.\*

## Aim for fitness...

- Aim for a healthy weight.
- Be physically active.

## Build a healthy base...

- Let the [Food Guide] Pyramid guide your food choices.
- Choose a variety of grains daily, especially whole grain.
- Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Keep food safe to eat.

## Choose sensibly...

- Choose a diet that is low in saturated fat and cholesterol and moderate in total fat.
- Choose beverages and foods to moderate your intake of sugars.
- Choose and prepare foods with less salt.
- If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so in moderation.

\*From Nutrition and Health: Dietary Guidelines for Americans, Fifth Edition, 2000  
So keep moving and motivating each other - And keep track of those lost pounds!

440th AIRLIFT WING  
**HEALTH  
FAIR**  
OCTOBER 3  
**10am-2pm**  
HERITAGE HALL

**MASSAGE  
FITtoFIGHT  
NUTRITION  
PERSONAL TRAINING  
YOGA and more!**



### Where's Col. Whiteley?

Col. Ed Whiteley, formerly with the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, is now serving as the chief of operations and training for 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force at Dobbins ARB, Ga.

Before coming to the 440th, he was the chief of standards and evaluation for the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Youngstown ARB, Ohio.

### New MOF commander

Lt. Col. Liesa M. Roelke has been named the new 440th Maintenance Operations Flight commander.

### Health experts wanted

Have a skill, hobby or certification in health and wellness? Sunday of the October UTA, the 440th will host a wellness fair. To share your fitness knowledge at this event, contact Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Swoboda at Kswoboda@gmail.af.mil or call 482-5701.

### Two reservists represent Guard and Reserve at Presidential event

Senior Master Sgt. Peter Ruzicka, 440th CES, and Maj. Ed Stack, 95th Airlift Squadron, represented the 440th Airlift Wing at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Freedom Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 21.

### HRDC meeting Oct. 2

The Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) will meet at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2 in Heritage Hall.

### Nominate employers for Patriot Award

Reservists are reminded to nominate their employers for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot awards. All employers of Reserve members are eligible. Nominate your employer at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org), under reservists and employer awards.

### Civilian Employment Information

Civilian Employment Information (CEI) requires reservists to disclose their civilian employers into a common department-wide database. Members can enter employer data at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-Reserveportal>

### MEDs retirement ceremony ends with a surprise event

Most retirement ceremonies are emotional, as reservists ponder their many years of service and the friends they will leave behind. Often, the member recalls colleagues who made a difference in their lives. But Tech. Sgt. Dean Sydlewski had a new twist on his retirement. At the closing of his retirement ceremony, the Medical Squadron reservist reflected on the people, places and commitment throughout his Air Force experience. Then, in a surprise conclusion, he asked for a commitment from Mary Jane Dorava, requesting her to marry him. Of course, Dorava said "Yes!"

# Automated defibrillators now on base

by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe



photo by Maj. Ann Knabe

Karl Ratz, a civilian firefighter at Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, demonstrates how to use the automated external defibrillator.

Air Force Reserve Command recently issued automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to Reserve units around the country. The life-saving devices are used to identify irregular heart rhythms, and, if necessary, shock the cardio-system during a heart attack.

"They are easy to use," said Karl Ratz, a civilian firefighter at General Mitchell ARS. "You don't have to be a medic to figure out how to use it, but you do need to be trained. The kit even tells you where to place the pads on the body."

Unlike the defibrillators commonly used as props in the entertainment industry, AED's do not have paddles. The AED system uses adhesive patches which are placed on the person's chest.

While AED's are easy to use, the base requires training before a person can use them. However, anyone can get an AED kit if asked by an AED-trained individual during an emergency situation. When the AED case is opened for use, an alarm goes off alerting emergency responders of a life-threatening situation. The AEDs are located in four spots on base:

- Headquarters, building 102, in the hallway outside Heritage Hall (the base auditorium)
- Security Forces, building 200, in the weapons clearing area
- Maintenance Hangar, building 217, on the ISO dock.
- Fitness Center, building 110, across from the reception desk.

AEDs are primarily used to treat heart attack victims. "When someone faints and becomes unresponsive, the AED is very useful," said Maj. Therese Kern, chief of nursing. The machine identifies irregular heartbeats, and gives verbal instructions to the user on what to do next. For more information on AED training, call Fire Department Chief of Training, James Kula, at (414) 482-5172.



## DIVERSITY: Seeing things from a different perspective.



The 1,350 reservists who comprise the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing have many things in common. They wear the same uniform; they train, train, train to be prepared to proficiently serve if activated; they support the missions of the wing and the Air Force Reserve; they proudly serve their country and, regardless of rank, don't get rich doing it — unless wealth is measured in terms of a sense of purpose, devotion to duty, and patriotism. In short, they're alike in many ways.

But while their uniforms are of the cookie-cutter variety, the reservists who fill them certainly aren't. They come from an array of family, racial, ethnic, religious and educational backgrounds; in some cases their age differences span four decades; most are male, but many are female; some speak foreign languages (in addition to English); some have civilian jobs much like their reserve jobs, while for others there's no comparison between their civilian and reserve roles; their reserve jobs encompass scores of different occupations. In short, they're a diverse lot, too.

Those differences were brought forward and accentuated in this series in the last several editions. The intent was to dispel the widespread notion that diversity is nothing more than a difference in skin color or ethnicity; to expand on the prevalence of diversity in our nation, culture and branch of service; and to remove any misconceptions that diversity is synonymous with adversity. Diversity might well be a topic that most people don't give a second thought — unless they're urged to do so. That, too, was a purpose of this column. America's population is at an all-time high. Clearly, ours is no longer a nation of just white Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs) as it essentially was at its founding. Those days are long gone; this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The American melting pot is bigger than ever. Fate and law, and perhaps divine guidance, made it that way.

In the final analysis, let's all recognize that we are one as Americans - and as Air Force reservists - but we are a myriad of individuals. At this advanced and enlightened stage in world history, fair-minded and clear-thinking persons know and accept that lingering biases, prejudices and stereotypes about others' ethnicity, culture, lifestyle, gender or any aspect of their free will are wrong and unjust. We are all children of this world; not one of us decided who our parents would be.

This is the final installment in this series. Diversity, however, will go on and on and on. Long live diversity!

*by Master Sgt. Bob Reeve*

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“But while their uniforms are of the cookie-cutter variety, the reservists who fill them certainly aren't...Let's all recognize that we are one as Americans - and as Air Force reservists - but we are a myriad of individuals.”

EDUCATION  
**RACE**  
 LANGUAGE  
 AGE  
 RELIGION  
**AFSC**  
 MILITARY RANK  
 FAMILY

**DIFFERENT. DISTINCT. DIVERSIFIED.**

on the outside...

## looking in

A monthly column for military spouses and family

***On the outside - looking in* is a new column appearing each month in the Flying Badger. Created for families, the column will answer questions submitted by reservists' family members. The goal is to answer common questions asked by families.**

**If you are a family member with a question, please submit your question to Family Support Director Susan Knauer at (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744, or email Knauer or sknauer@generalmitchell.af.mil**

### ***What services does the 440th Family Support Office offer?***

The core function of the Family Support Office is to link individuals and families with the right resources to meet specific needs.

For example members may have questions regarding deployment, Tricare or financial questions. Our office can assist families at any time but especially when the military member is performing duty away from home station.

Base leaders are also assisted in their efforts to meet family needs. Family Support services are available to single military members as well as married couples. We are staffed during regular business hours and on UTA weekends.

### ***My spouse is deployed. How can I connect with other people who are going through the same thing I am?***

The Family Support office is the focal point for linking families and their spouses to family support groups in their local area. Support groups can help families meet the challenges of military life. Joining a family support group gives individuals a chance to connect with others who understand your worries and concerns and allows you to meet new people and have fun!

There are small regional groups throughout Wisconsin, Illinois and Upper Michigan. In addition there is a larger group that meets at the base several times a year. Please contact the Family Support Office for details.

# Operation Angel Tree

## A way to help the children of activated reservists

Operation Angel Tree is a way for 440th civilians and reservists to help make the holidays brighter for a child whose family has faced hardship this year.

Reserve families face hardships such as illness, death of family members, financial problems, and single-parenthood. Activations are also stressful for all families involved.

Operation Angel Tree is a way to help these families. The program, which kicks-off this month, is organized so anonymous gifts may be given to identified children.

Commanders and first sergeants have been asked to identify families who could use an extra boost during this holiday season. The names and ages of eligible children will be collected, along with suggested gift items and clothing sizes. These nominations will be collected during the month.

Family Support will create tags for each child's name.

On Oct. 23, these tags will be placed on the Angel Tree, located in the base exchange. Reservists and civilian employees may pick the age and gender of a child (no names will be on the tree) they want to buy a gift for. Then, they can purchase the gift for the child. If purchased at the base exchange, gifts will be discounted 10 percent.

Purchased gifts may be dropped off at the Family Support Office or the BX anytime before Saturday, Dec. 4. Gifts should not be wrapped.

Family Support will wrap the gifts and distribute them to the appropriate families on Sunday of the December UTA.

For more information about donating gifts for Operation Angel Tree, they should contact the Family Support Office at 482-5424.

## Family Reminder

**If your spouse is being extended for a second year of active duty, you must renew your family's identification cards. For more information, contact Military Personnel Flight customer service at 482-5331.**

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Office of Public Affairs  
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Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, WI 53207

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